

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A circuit arrangement to which a motor vehicle electric system supply voltage from a high-voltage vehicle electric system is applied and for briefly maintaining at least one internal normal d.c. voltage for electronic circuits in the event of failure of the motor vehicle electric system supply voltage, comprising:

a reserve energy accumulator to which a charging voltage higher than the at least one internal normal d.c. voltage is applied by the high-voltage vehicle electric system during regular operation, and wherein the reserve energy accumulator, in the event of failure of the motor vehicle electric system supply voltage, delivers a reserve voltage with which operation of at least one of the electronic circuits can be maintained for a period of time; and

at least one step-down regulator that steps down an input direct voltage applied thereto to the at least one internal normal d.c. voltage, wherein the step-down regulator does not include an inductor, and wherein in regular operation the motor vehicle electric system supply voltage is applied directly by the high-voltage vehicle electric system via a diode as the charging voltage to the reserve energy accumulator and is also applied via a diode as an input direct voltage to the step-down regulator, and wherein the reserve voltage supplied by the reserve energy accumulator is applied directly as input direct voltage to the at least one step-down regulator in an emergency.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement as recited in Claim 10, further comprising:

an upstream step-down regulator to which is applied the reserve voltage, the upstream step-down regulator deriving from the reserve voltage the input direct voltage for the at least one step-down regulator.

13. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement as recited in Claim 12, wherein:
the upstream step-down regulator includes a switching regulator, and
the at least one step-down regulator includes a linear regulator.

14. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement as recited in Claim 10, wherein:
in order to maintain a plurality of internal normal d.c. voltages, the at least one
step-down regulator includes a plurality of step-down regulators to which the motor
vehicle electric system supply voltage is applied via a diode as an input direct voltage during
regular operation, each step-down regulator stepping down the motor vehicle electric system
supply voltage to one of the plurality of internal normal d.c. voltages for a group of
electronic circuits.

15. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement as recited in Claim 14, wherein the
reserve voltage is applied directly as an input direct voltage to the plurality of step-down
regulators in an emergency.

16. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement as recited in Claim 14, further
comprising:
an upstream step-down regulator, wherein the reserve voltage is applied to the
upstream step-down regulator, the upstream step-down regulator deriving therefrom the input
direct voltage for the plurality of step-down regulators.

17. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement as recited in Claim 16, wherein:
the upstream step-down regulator includes a switching regulator, and
the plurality of step-down regulators are linear regulators.

18. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement as recited in Claim 10, wherein the
reserve energy accumulator includes a capacitor.